

## **RWAC Meeting October 15, 2020**

### **Metro West New Facility Presentation – Dan Blue, Matt Tracy, Gloria Pinzon Summary Notes and Questions Asked from RWAC Members**

Presentation focused on presenting project overview of West New Facility, and specifically proposal to acquire a parcel in Cornelius, prior to taking to Metro Council for closing in December.

After presentation, Roy asked committee for their input on the presentation and proposed acquisition of property in Cornelius. He said there would be more time at next meeting in November to hear from RWAC and gauge level of support for proposed action (close on purchase of Cornelius property).

#### **Questions/Comments from RWAC Community Members**

**Sharetta:** What are some of concerns and challenges the community has about a transfer station in Cornelius?

**Gloria:** We haven't heard many concerns specific to Cornelius site so far, but in general, we have heard concerns about possible nuisances that might be part of this project. Also have heard concerns about the manufactured home resident community that is within ½ mile of the Cornelius site – and to ensure that Metro reaches out to them about the project, one-on-one. This community is a senior community, so need to figure out way to reach out that is comfortable to them – phone or mail. CAG is excited about potential benefits of the project. Another concern is about traffic.

**Alondra:** She is amazed about all the engagement we are doing, despite pandemic!

**Roy:** We are doing a risk assessment for doing a little more in-person engagement, but so far haven't been successful in figuring this out, but hope it is a possibility in the future.

**Marilou:** She submitted questions in pre-meeting and appreciates some of the adjustments made to the presentation, including the high level overview of property assessments.

- She is curious how this information has been communicated back to the CAG? If received info, how did they respond to it?
- What will the industry webinar include? Does it include community feedback from the CAG and will feedback be communicated back to industry through the webinar?

**Dan:** Great idea to share what we are hearing from community and CAG with industry. Gloria mentioned nuisances and traffic – we have spent some time educating CAG on how these concerns might be mitigated through design. Industry webinar is opportunity to share an overview of the project for the solid waste haulers across the region (not just west side) and all the private facility operators, as well as local governments, and those who regulate the system.

- Next session she would like to learn more about conversation with the local tribes (on the project).

**Dan:** We will bring back more info regarding our outreach to tribal nations, including historical use and current.

**Joe:** No questions or comments. Thanks for good questions, very informative

**Christa:** My questions have also been answered, very clear presentation.

### **Questions/Comments from Local Government Representatives**

**Tom:** Metro team came to the WA County Board of Commissioners a month ago and offered similar presentation, which was received well. WA Board does not have any regulatory authority or oversight of project, but within county and so interested. They were generally supportive of the project and thought it was an exciting project.

Appreciate Metro in Regional Waste Plan process, we created summary reports of community engagement efforts with what they heard. Tom (and staff) used this to inform their work because same organizations represent our communities – so don't want to keep going back out asking same questions.

- Are we planning to publish something that summarizes what we heard from the CAG and from the community? This would be helpful to them for this project – and for planning other future work and engagement. Want to also know feedback from the community.

**Dan:** Working on staff report related to property investigation work. We will also putting together community engagement publication that shares everything we heard on this project. Those two pieces will come together as a Phase One report before we go on to next step. We will make that available.

**Beth:** I understand effort to bifurcate the siting/land acquisition process from the facility (design/construction?) process but I also recognize that there have been a number of government enterprises where land is acquired and the rest is foiled, so I have a couple of questions:

- I have heard Metro say that we have about 2.5x the capacity for commercial wet tonnage (correct me if I am wrong?), so with that extra capacity makes me wonder about the need for this broad-based facility, there may other service needs, but..?
- What are the cost estimates related to this project? She would like a basic cost-benefit analysis (for these projects) to underpin them and clearly communicate info to community members

**No response provided – Dan's Note:** For the first question around capacity, yes there is currently capacity in the region for additional commercial tons to be received at existing transfer stations. The West side project drivers include guidance from the 2030 Regional Waste Plan, which identified service and rate equity issues in western Washington County. We also are looking ahead at continued population and business growth in this part of the region, as well as the potential long term viability of the Forest Grove Transfer Station. For the second question, we are too early in the process to estimate building costs since we do not know the full package of services that a new facility would provide. We do know that modern full service transfer stations have been built in the Pacific Northwest in recent years for between \$40M and \$110M dollars.

**Shannon:** I understand the need to invest in our system and enhance system, and know you are just looking at land acquisition now, but given that we are doing community engagement now, and talking to community about a community center, etc., when it comes to equity, I want to stress that east county

communities will be paying for this transfer station, so it would be interesting to have a conversation about how we bring equity to east county with this project and Metro South. Maybe that is through community enhancement fees?

- East county is a recycling desert, just like West county, so how can we figure out ways to support our region with this project and South, so that it is bringing equity to the entire region?

**Roy:** We will come back and spend some time talking about that at a future meeting.

Roy reminded this project will be back next month for more discussion.

Roy then moved to Molly V. to talk about tonnage allocation.